Overview

Pursuant to RCW 43.62.035, this document contains county population projections prepared by the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for growth management planning. State and county population are provided at five-year intervals between 2000 and 2010, and single year intervals from 2010 through 2025. The additional single year intervals were developed to accommodate the various Growth Management Act (GMA) planning targets required by counties.

The GMA projections presented, similar to the set released in 1995, provide high, intermediate, and low growth expectations for each county. Counties may select a growth management planning target within the high and low projection alternatives. This was one of the amendments to RCW 43.62.035 in 1995. Counties may also petition OFM and request changes if population growth should change enough to likely fall outside these long range expectations.

These county projections are developed within the framework of the November 2001 state population projection, and state projection of births, deaths, and migration. Total populations and components of change from the county projections are compared and reconciled with the state population projection for each five-year time interval throughout the projection period. Independently developed county projections, using the same method and similar assumptions may not match these projections because independent expectations for births, deaths, and migration for individual counties are not reconciled to the state total.

Acknowledgements

The Forecasting Division of the Office of Financial Management prepared this report. Primary staff responsible for the GMA projections was Theresa J. Lowe and Donald B. Pittenger. Staff assisting with project and publication was Yi Zhao, Lawrence Weisser, and Diana Brunink. Special thanks are expressed to the many local and regional officials and staff who assisted in providing data and review of the projections through several development phases. Additional appreciation is also expressed to the state and regional transportation planning staff and the economic development council representatives who also participated in providing data and/or review functions. It is hoped that with the contributions of many individuals and agencies, these projections will better serve growth management and other planning purposes.

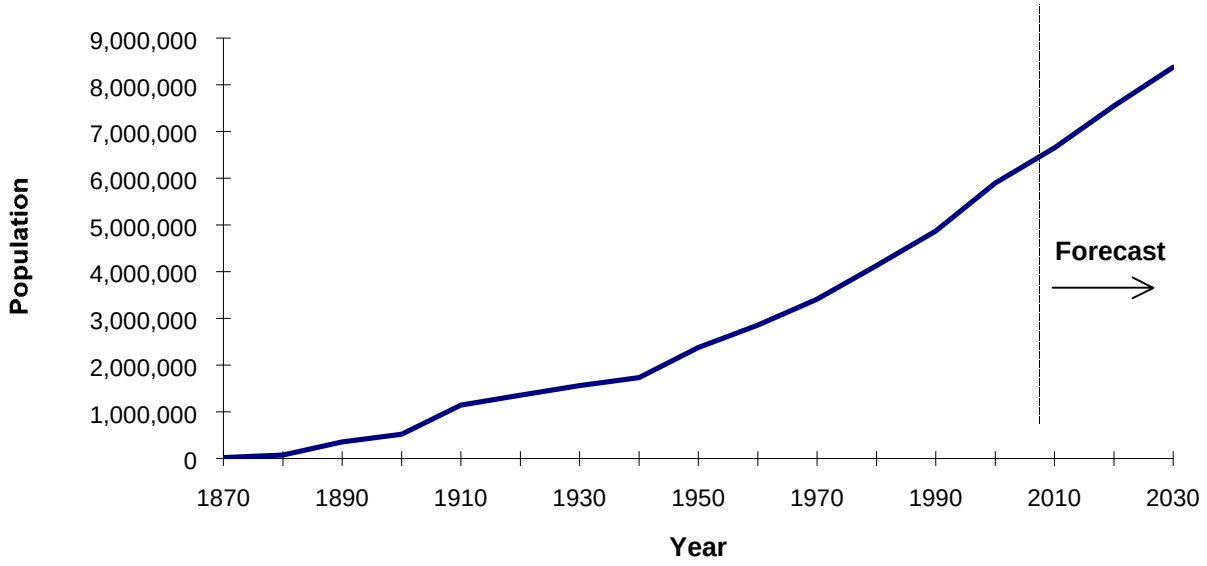
Any questions regarding this publication should be directed to the Forecasting Division at (360) 902-0599.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Washington State Population Projection: 2000-2025

Growth management county projections are developed within the framework of expected state population growth through the year 2025. Washington's population has increased by about 20 percent per decade from 1960 through the year 2000—adding a total of 1,027,000 over the 1990s. State growth, which slowed in the late 1990s, modestly rebounded from an annual change of 63,000 for 1999-00 to 80,800 for 2000-01. Growth, however, is expected to slow to between 65,000 to 67,000 per year through 2005 and then gradually increase to 88,000 annually by 2009-10.

Washington State shows strong historical population growth.
Forecast growth is in line with historical experience



OFM FORECASTING DIVISION NOVEMBER 2001

However, given the contraction of the dot-com economic sector, transfer of the Boeing company headquarters to Chicago in 2000, aerospace employment reductions, and the continuing economic ramifications of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001—near-term population growth in Washington is uncertain. Even long-term growth trends might be expected to deviate from historical experience. Current high and low growth alternatives for the state have more variation than in prior forecasts.

The following sections discuss the specific components of population change at the state level historically and in the November OFM projections that serve as controls for the intermediate county projection series.

Table 1. Population and Components of Population Change: 1990 to 2030

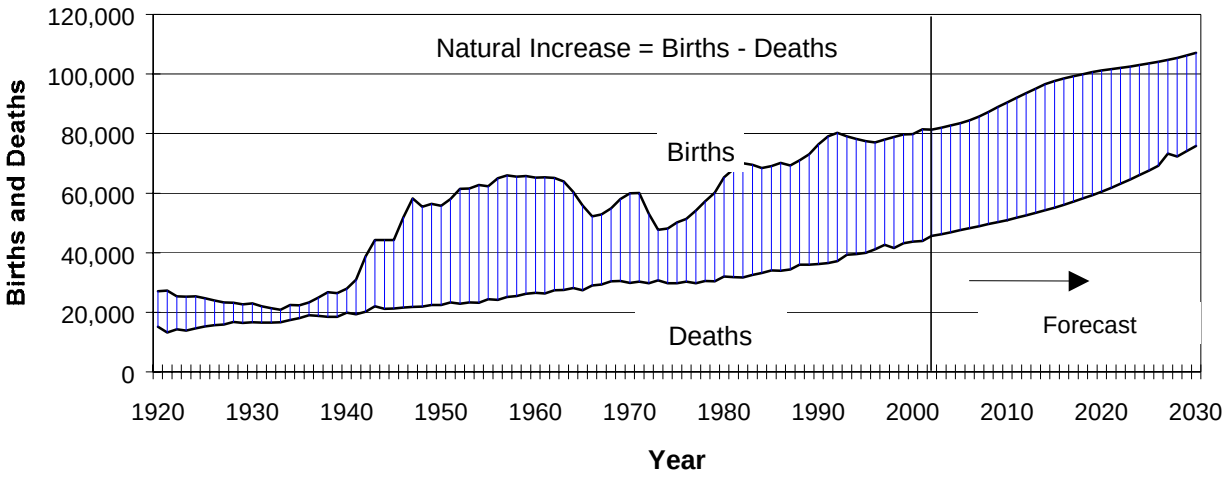
	Population At End Of Period	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Components of Change from Previous Period - Births Number	Births Rate	Deaths Number	Deaths Rate	Natural Increase	Net Migration Number	Net Migration Rate
1990-1991	5,021,335	154,643	3.18	79,076	15.99	36,575	7.40	42,501	112,142	22.68
1991-1992	5,141,177	119,842	2.39	80,236	15.79	37,160	7.31	43,076	76,766	15.11
1992-1993	5,265,688	124,511	2.42	79,077	15.20	39,353	7.56	39,724	84,787	16.29
1993-1994	5,364,338	98,650	1.87	78,194	14.71	39,535	7.44	38,659	59,991	11.29
1994-1995	5,470,104	105,766	1.97	77,453	14.30	39,957	7.38	37,496	68,270	12.60
1990-1995		603,412		394,036		192,580		201,456	401,956	
1995-1996	5,567,764	97,660	1.79	77,008	13.95	41,152	7.46	35,856	61,804	11.20
1996-1997	5,663,763	95,999	1.72	78,035	13.90	42,632	7.59	35,403	60,596	10.79
1997-1998	5,750,033	86,270	1.52	78,828	13.81	41,564	7.28	37,264	49,006	8.59
1998-1999	5,830,835	80,802	1.41	79,758	13.77	43,145	7.45	36,613	44,189	7.63
1999-2000	5,894,121	63,286	1.09	79,853	13.62	43,743	7.46	36,110	27,176	4.64
1995-2000		424,017		393,482		212,236		181,246	242,771	
2000-2001	5,974,900	80,779	1.37	81,381	13.71	43,963	7.41	37,418	43,361	7.31
2001-2002	6,042,622	67,722	1.13	81,336	13.54	45,614	7.59	35,722	32,000	5.33
2002-2003	6,100,856	58,234	0.96	81,980	13.50	46,146	7.60	35,834	22,400	3.69
2003-2004	6,165,683	64,827	1.06	82,675	13.48	46,848	7.64	35,827	29,000	4.73
2004-2005	6,233,345	67,662	1.10	83,444	13.46	47,582	7.68	35,862	31,800	5.13
2000-2005		339,224		410,816		230,153		180,663	158,561	
2005-2006	6,308,847	75,502	1.21	84,431	13.46	48,229	7.69	36,202	39,300	6.27
2006-2007	6,388,804	79,957	1.27	85,750	13.51	48,893	7.70	36,857	43,100	6.79
2007-2008	6,473,698	84,894	1.33	87,281	13.57	49,587	7.71	37,694	47,200	7.34
2008-2009	6,560,472	86,774	1.34	88,927	13.65	50,253	7.71	38,674	48,100	7.38
2009-2010	6,648,112	87,640	1.34	90,500	13.70	50,960	7.72	39,540	48,100	7.28
2005-2010		414,767		436,889		247,922		188,967	225,800	
2010-2011	6,736,491	88,379	1.33	92,037	13.75	51,758	7.73	40,279	48,100	7.19
2011-2012	6,825,645	89,154	1.32	93,603	13.80	52,549	7.75	41,054	48,100	7.09
2012-2013	6,915,483	89,838	1.32	95,113	13.84	53,375	7.77	41,738	48,100	7.00
2013-2014	7,005,902	90,419	1.31	96,558	13.87	54,239	7.79	42,319	48,100	6.91
2014-2015	7,096,501	90,599	1.29	97,644	13.85	55,145	7.82	42,499	48,100	6.82
2010-2015		448,389		474,955		267,066		207,889	240,500	
2015-2016	7,187,004	90,503	1.28	98,526	13.80	56,123	7.86	42,403	48,100	6.74
2016-2017	7,277,229	90,225	1.26	99,262	13.73	57,137	7.90	42,125	48,100	6.65
2017-2018	7,367,097	89,868	1.23	99,961	13.65	58,193	7.95	41,768	48,100	6.57
2018-2019	7,456,504	89,407	1.21	100,623	13.58	59,316	8.00	41,307	48,100	6.49
2019-2020	7,545,269	88,765	1.19	101,160	13.49	60,495	8.07	40,665	48,100	6.41
2015-2020		448,768		499,532		291,264		208,268	240,500	
2020-2021	7,633,132	87,863	1.16	101,581	13.38	61,818	8.15	39,763	48,100	6.34
2021-2022	7,720,124	86,992	1.14	102,041	13.29	63,149	8.23	38,892	48,100	6.27
2022-2023	7,806,203	86,079	1.11	102,532	13.21	64,553	8.32	37,979	48,100	6.20
2023-2024	7,891,332	85,129	1.09	103,068	13.13	66,039	8.41	37,029	48,100	6.13
2024-2025	7,975,471	84,139	1.07	103,610	13.06	67,571	8.52	36,039	48,100	6.06
2020-2025		430,202		512,832		323,130		189,702	240,500	
2025-2026	8,058,527	83,056	1.04	104,120	12.99	69,164	8.63	34,956	48,100	6.00
2026-2027	8,138,103	79,576	0.99	104,703	12.93	73,227	9.04	31,476	48,100	5.94
2027-2028	8,219,251	81,148	1.00	105,401	12.89	72,353	8.85	33,048	48,100	5.88
2028-2029	8,299,448	80,197	0.98	106,222	12.86	74,125	8.97	32,097	48,100	5.82
2029-2030	8,378,813	79,365	0.96	107,138	12.85	75,873	9.10	31,265	48,100	5.77
2025-2030		403,342		527,584		364,742		162,842	240,500	
2000-2030		2,484,692		2,862,608		1,724,277		1,138,331	1,346,361	

Methodology and Components of Population Change

The state population is projected using a version of the standard "cohort-component" approach "Cohort-component" simply means that population is disaggregated into age-gender groups and moved forward in time using specific assumptions for births, deaths, and migration for each projection interval. The state forecast model moved the population forward year by year. The state forecast developed and released in November 2001 provides the framework for the GMA county projections released in January 2002 and provided in this publication. The state forecast is typically projected over a 30-year period, which is apparent in the tables and graphs presented in this section. The county projections are provided from 2000 through 2025.

The components of population change are births, deaths, and migration. The excess of births over deaths is called natural increase. Persons moving to Washington (inmigration) less persons leaving the state (outmigration) results in net migration. Table 1 shows the components of population change for 1990 through 2030. Births from 1990 through 2000 are actual vital events.

Natural increase will continue to be an important contributor to state growth



OFM FORECASTING DIVISION NOVEMBER 2001

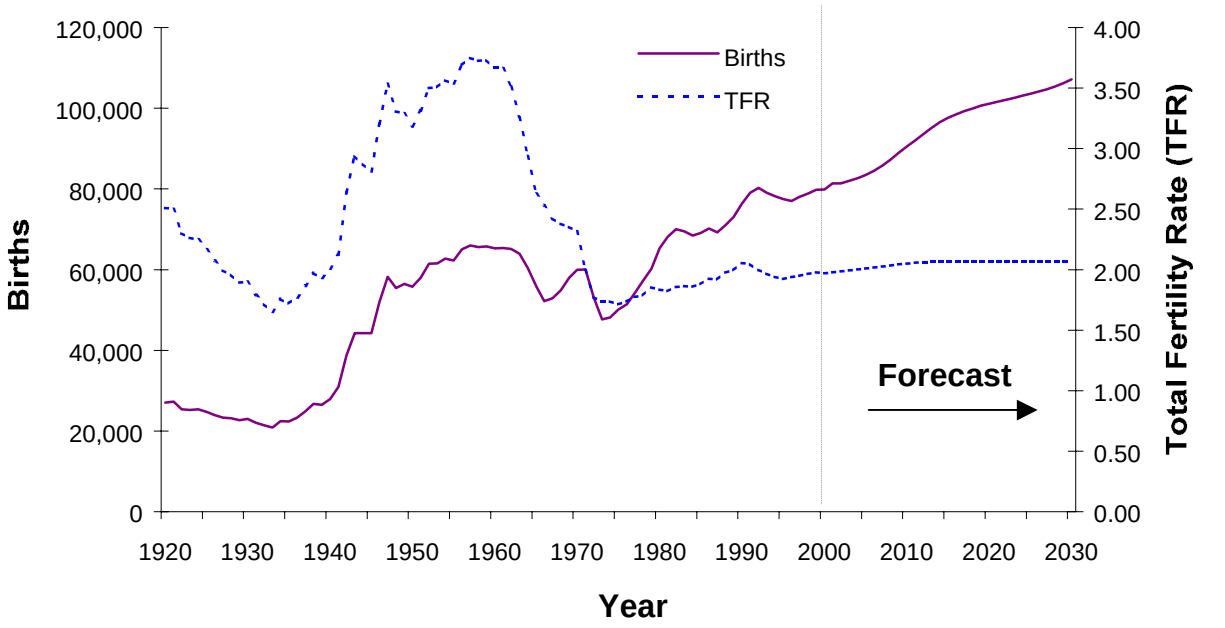
Fertility is forecast by assuming that Washington's birth rates will track closely with national birth rates as a whole, though remaining at slightly higher levels based in historical experience. Historic fertility levels in Washington, as in the nation, have followed a roller coaster pattern. However, since the mid-1980s the state's total fertility rate (TFR)—the average number of births per woman—has remained relatively constant. The average number of births per woman is actually a hypothetical value. It is the average lifetime births expected by a group of women if they followed the age-specific birth rates for a given year.

Actual birth levels in Washington increased and then stabilized as the Baby Boom generation aged to have children. Births are expected to rise again as this new bulge of youngsters reach adulthood and begin their families. Thus, even though total fertility is expected to remain relatively constant, changes

in the number of women of childbearing age will continue to cause some fluctuation in fertility levels. The following outline shows some of the historic fertility peaks and valleys.

Year	Social and Economic Climate	Number of Annual Births	Average Number of Births Per Woman
1933	Bottom of the Depression	20,800	1.6
1957	Peak of Baby Boom, economic prosperity	65,900	3.7
1975	Increases in working women, increased age at first marriage, and delayed childbearing.	49,500	1.7
1980s	Children of the Baby Boomers reach adulthood.	68,000 to 71,000	1.8 to 2.0
Early 1990s	Slight rise in fertility rates, delayed first/or second births recognized.	79,000 to 80,000	2.0 to 2.04
Late 1990s to 2000	Modest fluctuations in fertility levels, down and then up. Fewer women in peak childbearing age.	77,000 to 79,800	1.93 to 1.97
----------Forecast----------			
2001-2030	Forecast follows U.S. Census Bureau national forecast assumptions. No major changes in average births per woman.	Births gradually increase from 80,000 to 107,000 by 2030	1.97 to 2.07

Number of births per woman is expected to be low but a large number of women will have children between 1990 and 2030.



OFM FORECASTING DIVISION NOVEMBER 2001

If women were currently having children at birth rates comparable to the Baby Boom years—births would total 145,000 births per year. By the year 2030 there would be nearly 200,000 births per year.

There is no indication that high fertility rates will return—not given the high level of women's participation in the labor force, delayed marriage, and delayed childbearing after marriage.

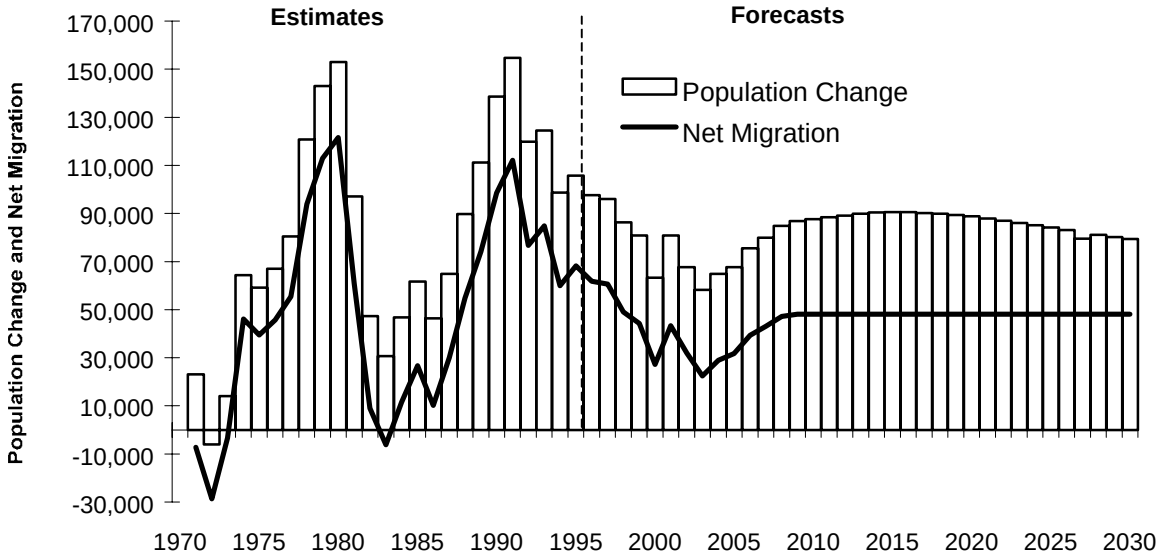
Mortality expectations over the projection period are also based on the most current Bureau of the Census national mortality trends, adjusted for the difference between Washington and national mortality. In the nation as a whole, and in Washington, the first half of the 1900s saw dramatic improvements in nutrition and health care that reduced infant deaths and markedly increased life expectancy. After that time, gains in infant health and life expectancy continued, but at a slower pace. Infant death rates are now quite low. Bureau of the Census research indicates that from the late 1990s forward no medical breakthroughs are anticipated that will greatly increase life expectancy. Gains in life expectancy are expected to come from improved maternal health care, lifestyle changes, and treatment of hypertension.

The following outline shows improvements in life expectancy over time and future expectations.

Year	Infant Mortality/Comments	Number of Annual Deaths	Life Expectancy in Years	
			Male	Female
1920s	Large proportion of deaths to infants in first year of life—approximately 56 per 1,000.	15,000	58	60
1960	Major advances in nutrition and medicine occurred between 1920 and 1960. Infant mortality reduced to 23 per 1,000.	26,500	68	75
1980	Infant mortality reduced to 12 per 1,000.	32,000	72	79
Late 1990s and 2000	Large improvements in life expectancy unlikely. Infant mortality 8 per 1,000.	43,000 to 43,700	74	80
----------Forecast----------				
2005	Forecast follows U.S. Census Bureau recent national forecast assumptions. Slow d improvements		75	81
2015			76	82
2025			77	83

Migration is the most variable component of population change and is largely an economic phenomenon relating push and pull factors. Migration usually varies according to economic conditions in Washington relative to other states. Some migration, such as military movements or the migration of retired persons, is not driven by economic factors.

Net migration is a major contributor to population change in Washington State.

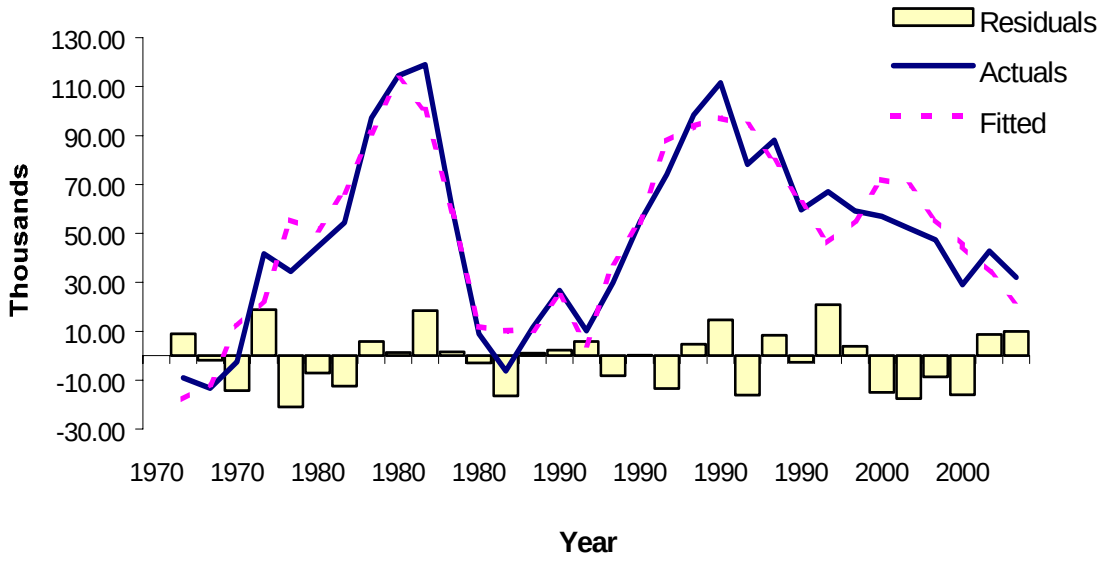


OFM FORECASTING DIVISION NOVEMBER 2001

Annual migration is developed separately for three time periods: (1) historical and current estimates, (2) near term projections, and (3) long term projections.

Year (s)	Method	Distinguishing Characteristics Of Method	Data and Assumptions (if applicable)
1990-2000	Provisional Intercensal Estimates	*Decade population change from census counts* with estimates of annual change based on ***actual change*** in symptomatic data	School enrollment and housing
2001	Provisional Estimate	Developed from provisional change based on one variable	School enrollment in Component Method II estimate method
2001-2005	Near Term Projection	Regression model relating net migration to the state's near term relative economic performance.	Employment forecasts from the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (Sept. 2001) adjusted for aerospace employment reductions and October 2001 DRI-WERA forecasts for the U.S. and California. Washington's traded sector job growth becomes weaker than the US and California for some years due the slowdown in high tech manufacturing and a decline in aerospace employment.
2006-2008	Transition Period		Three-year transition period blending the near term and long term projection
2009-2030	Long Term Projection	Developed from the regression model and historical migration trends. *Results expressed as average annual migration.*	Long-term employment forecasts. Washington's traded sector and producer services employment is expected to outperform the US and California.

Comparison of actual and predicted net migration using OFM's model, 1970-2002



OFM FORECASTING DIVISION NOVEMBER 2001

Projected migration is modeled with econometric techniques that integrate economic performance expectations with population outcomes by quantitatively relating changes in traded sector employment to net migration. Briefly, the model specifies that the civilian net migration level is determined by four factors:

- The relative growth of "traded sector" employment in Washington State to that in the U.S. as a whole.
- The relative growth of "traded sector" employment in Washington State to that in California.
- The U.S. unemployment rate.
- A national recession indicator.

"Traded" industry sectors are those that "export" goods and services. They include manufacturing, federal civilian government, and producer services (services purchased by businesses). Changes in state traded sector employment are closely associated with varying levels of net migration over time.

The forecast input data comes from OFM's long-term forecast of the state traded sector employment, the Office of Forecast Council's (OFC) short-term economic forecast for the state, and the DRI-WEFA's economic forecast for the U.S. and California. Input data for 2001 are the DRI-WEFA's October 2001 U.S. forecast, so the impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the economy is taken into account. OFC's employment forecast is adjusted to reflect 25,000 job cuts by Boeing, Boeing contractors, and other aerospace employers.

The slowdown in net migration gains for Washington—through 2005—could have been somewhat steeper given expected employment losses. The slowdown was dampened, however, by an expected

economic contraction in the California economy that would reduce California's attraction to potential Washington movers.

Assumptions in long term employment expectations that determine migration for the intermediate series are specified in more detail below.

- **Washington is expected to out-perform the U.S. in the growth of the traded sector employment**. This makes Washington an attractive place, economically speaking, for potential migrants.

- **Growth in manufacturing employment in Washington is expected to perform better than in the U.S. and California**. The forecasts for California and the U.S. show a long-run decline in manufacturing employment. In Washington, manufacturing employment is predicted to maintain a small but positive rate of growth. Historically, manufacturing employment in Washington, excluding aerospace and lumber and wood products, has always grown faster than in the U.S. This trend is expected to continue.

- **Employment growth in producer services in Washington is expected to perform better than the U.S. producer services employment in the early years of the forecast.** Historically, Washington has experienced significantly faster employment growth in producer services than the U.S. This is expected to continue with the difference declining. In the last ten years of the forecast period, the producer services sector in Washington is projected to grow at about the same rate as the U.S.

- **Employment growth in federal civilian government employment in Washington will decline modestly in the near term, but not as much as in California or the U.S.** Washington has come out of the federal government and military reductions better than most states. Defense spending and some military cuts have occurred, but there have been no major base closures, and the Everett Home Port has been completed. After the year 2000, Washington is expected to follow the national trend in terms of reductions in federal civilian employment.

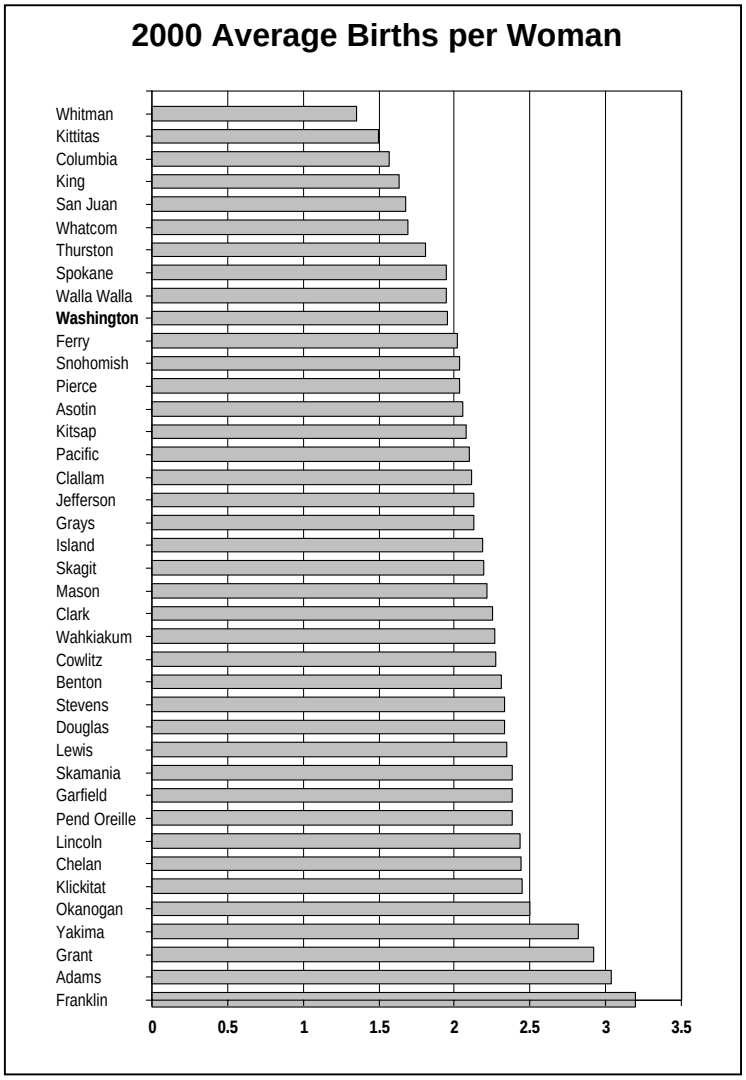
II. County Population Projections: 2000 to 2025

Three sets of county population projections are provided: a high series, an intermediate series, and a low series. The high and low series generally reflect assumptions as to the uncertainty regarding growth over the next 25 years. These assumptions are based on the historical high and low decade migration patterns for each county and on current factors affecting the economic base and attractiveness of specific areas in the state. *The alternative series are a means of taking the fundamental unpredictability of long-range projections into account.*

Methodology and Components of Population Change

County projections are developed using a version of the standard "cohort-component" approach to projecting population as discussed in the state methodology section. "Cohort-component" simply means that populations are disaggregated into age-sex groups and moved forward through time using specific rates of fertility, mortality and migration for each projection interval. In the present case for the county projections, the age ranges and projection intervals are both five years. Annual rates for single-year age ranges are simply too variable to use for populations of less than 500,000.

Middle series county projections are developed within the framework of the previously discussed state projection. County populations and components of population change were compared and reconciled to the statewide age-sex, birth, death, and net migration projections for each five-year interval from 2000 to 2025. Please note that independently developed county projections using the same methods and assumptions might not match the present projected data due to the effects of the reconciliation process. Annual county projections are derived by interpolation between the interval endpoints and then forcing county data to sum to the state projection that is developed on a single year basis.



Fertility rates at the county level are generally assumed to increase very slightly over the projection period. This is consistent with the state level assumption that parallels the most recent Census Bureau forecast of U.S. fertility. Maintaining each county's unique fertility pattern plays a primary role in determining future growth. However, forcing county level births to sum to state totals, plus other adjustments, prevents complete compliance for some counties. Some exceptions are counties experiencing very high birth rates

due large Hispanic populations. Since most all immigrant populations tend to assimilate over time, the high fertility rates in these counties are assumed to decline slightly through 2025. Affected counties include Adams, Franklin, Grant, and Yakima.

Mortality rates are based on vital statistics through 2000. A common set of death rates is developed for all counties based on the statewide life tables. Future life expectancy follows the U.S. Census Bureau's expectations with adjustment for historical differences with Washington. Male life expectancy at birth is assumed to increase from its 2000 value of 74 years to 77 years by 2025. Female life expectancy is expected to increase from 80 years to 83 years over the same period.

County mortality differences are hard to measure accurately for most counties due to small population bases. Life tables only tend to be reliable for counties of 500,000 persons or more. Thus, state life table death rates are used for all the counties. This is not considered a technical problem because variations in mortality tend to be small among the counties. Fertility and migration are considerably more variable and it is the birth and migration assumptions that have the largest impact on growth.

Migration is the most variable component of population change. The intermediate county projections are based on a set of broad propositions that relate to migration as the main driver of population change for the state and counties. Decade migration patterns for each county from 1960 through 2000 are also used to project future migration.

Washington and its counties, as can be seen in various tables and graphs in this publication, have tended to exhibit growth spurts interrupted by periods of slower growth, stagnation, and sometimes even decline. Furthermore, these spurts are not uniform in time and space. One example is the well-known "Boeing Bust" of the early 1970s that affected the central Puget Sound area. Some other parts of the state experienced rapid growth during the same period. These revised projections incorporate the impact of a "rural rebound" growth trend experienced by most of the western states in the early 1990s. It was an exodus to two million people leaving California during a severe economic recession that caused this trend. Rural and nonmetropolitan growth in Washington during the early1990s was far greater than anticipated, but quickly slowed as California's economy recovered in the mid-1990s.

History shows us that it that growth spurts or contractions usually do not last long. Such a situation creates uncertainty, and alternative projections are a solution. While the intermediate population projection is assigned the distinction of reflecting the most likely trend—most near term growth, for most counties, is not expected to track "right on" the intermediate expectations. Population growth is simply not likely to follow any single set of numbers. Growth will most likely be somewhat higher, or lower—or both higher and lower over the long term.

Aside from the near term growth in the state model, no attempt is made to predict the timing and magnitude of spurts. Recent growth patterns are blended into general tendencies. General tendencies are based on (1) 1960-2000 trends in relative population growth, and (2) a set of assumptions that is both grounded in past experience and which seems reasonable, given what is known about the economic, demographic, and social character of each of the 39 counties. These assumptions are:

- Major growth, in terms of numbers, if not rates, will be through accretion of existing population centers. Rates of growth will be smaller (or potentially negative) at the centers and high on the periphery.

- This accretion will occur along existing transportation corridors and spurs, primarily the Interstate highways and similar roadways.

- Non-corridor growth has been happening due to inmigration of retirees and perhaps telecommuters. This is expected to continue for counties where sustained historical growth has been recorded.

- Counties that are remote, and that have inconsistent growth histories, are assumed to have lower prospects for substantial future growth despite population jumps in the early 1990s.

The "population centers" noted above are Seattle, Spokane, Yakima, Tri-Cities, and Portland. Growth assumptions for individual counties are largely manifested in the migration numbers presented in the tables. In practice, the assumptions are not rigidly applied. They serve as guidelines for modifying various migration and population share trends out towards the projection horizon

It should be noted that detailed migration data by age and gender from Census 2000 will not be released until mid-2002 and therefore could not be incorporated in the revised projections. However, OFM's treatment of migration includes several noteworthy technical features. One is that special in/out - migrating populations related to the presence of colleges, military facilities, prisons, and mental hospitals are handled separately from other migrants for counties that are significantly impacted by such populations. Population pyramids for each county were examined to ensure that the age-sex characteristics of all counties, and particularly those with college, correctional facility, or other special populations, were successfully carried forward through 2025.

High and Low Projection Alternatives: GMA specifications require that county projections be expressed as a "reasonable" range developed within the state high and low projection series. State high and low projections are based on probable economic and other assumptions. State growth assumptions do not carry forward extreme economic conditions or other factors that have resulted in relatively short periods of extremely high population gains or losses. County projection growth ranges, developed within the state framework, were established on the same general basis and show moderate variations.

County high and low projection alternatives reflect uncertainty bands. They are not, in a formal sense, alternative scenarios. In general, the uncertainty band will be larger for smaller counties than large ones. It will be larger for faster growing than slower growing areas. It will be larger for counties with erratic growth in the past and smaller for counties that have had steadier growth. It will be larger for counties that may be impacted by changes in variable military, college, correctional, or other special populations. Both series sum to statewide low and high projections similar to the intermediate series. *Annual projections for the years 2010 through 2025 are provided to accommodate the various target years used for GMA planning*.

State and County Growth Profiles: A two-page population profile is provided for each county. These profiles are developed from the intermediate population series and contain age-gender detail and components of population change graphs.

Appendix: The appendix contains additional information and sets of data that might be of interest to users, especially those intending to do further analysis. These include data concepts, census, estimate, and other information.

- Data concepts: The data in this publication follow generally accepted demographic definitions and concepts used by the U.S. Census Bureau. Since the general reader cannot be expected to know these, this section presents the most important ones. *The data concepts section provides a discussion on resident and seasonal population. OFM projections do not include seasonal population nor imply anything about seasonal housing stock. Counties with significant seasonal housing should deal with this as an addition to the OFM projections.*

- Historical data**.** Tables showing historical census results, population estimates, components of change, growth rates, and so forth are included as reference material for users interested in doing analyses of the projections. These data were used both by OFM staff and county officials and planners to help evaluate preliminary versions of the projections.

- Population age 65 and older**.** Also enclosed is a table showing county shares of the population age 65 and over from the middle series projection. This might be of interest to counties that are retirement havens. Note that many retirement haven counties (such as Clallam, Jefferson, Island, and San Juan) show gains in share up through 2000 or 2010, but drop thereafter. This is in spite of the fact that the OFM projection system is giving them high rates of net inmigration in the 55-79 age range. The reason for the share drop has to do with the Baby Boom population that begins to turn 65 around 2010. All counties are affected by this, and the change in large counties such as King, Pierce, and Snohomish simply overwhelms any gains in retirement counties (which tend to have smaller population shares in the ages leading up to retirement and therefore feed proportionally fewer natives into the post-64 range).

State and County Growth Profiles

Appendix

Data Concepts

Projections in this publication assume generally accepted demographic definitions and concepts used by the U.S. Census Bureau. This section presents the most important ones.

Reference date. Federal censuses since 1930 have a reference data of April 1st. All estimate, vital statistics, and projection data in this publication are based on that date. An April 1 reference date is used because it is considered the time of the year when most people are living at their "usual residence." Usual residence is an important population count concept and discussed in more detail under resident population.

Age ranges. These are based on a person's age as of April 1st. For example, the 5-9 group includes everyone who has passed their fifth birthday but not their tenth.

Resident population. Most census data and the data here deal with the population that usually resides in an area. People are counted where they usually live, not where they happen to be on April 1. For example, a trucker, businessman, or holiday traveler in a motel on April 1 would be reported as living wherever they usually live, not at the location of their motel. On the other hand, some people have no usual place of residence, so the census reports them as living where they were found by enumerators.

Generally, "residence" refers to where one spends the largest part of the year. Resident population for an area includes military personnel, military dependents, persons in correctional facilities, persons living in nursing homes, and other long term care facilities. College students are considered residents of the place where they live while attending school. This is why student populations show up so dramatically in the age structure of the population in Kittitas and Whitman Counties.

Residency becomes important to growth management planners when the matter of ***seasonal population and seasonal housing*** arises. Seasonal population, such as vacationers or migrant farm workers, are counted as residents of the place they consider their usual home. Yet, these populations absorb a considerable amount of the housing in counties where they live part of the year. Some seasonal housing is for migrant workers. Other seasonal housing is recreational. Examples include vacation homes, time share condominiums, and beach, hunting, or ski cabins. In 2000, seasonal housing represented eight percent or more of the total housing in seventeen Washington counties. In Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, and San Juan Counties, seasonal housing was 20 to 30 percent of total housing. Seasonal housing implies seasonal population changes. Planners need to deal with the environmental impacts of seasonal housing and the service impacts of seasonal populations such as need for police and fire protection, and infrastructure development and maintenance. Furthermore, many seasonal units are potential year round housing. Some people sell their city houses on retirement and move to their rustic hideaway

Total Population by County